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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1916.-TWENTY-TWO PAGES. WASHINGTON, D. C.,

# **GERMANY SUBMITS** NEW MEMORANDUM ON SUBMARINE WAR

Note From Berlin Handed Secretary Lansing by Ambassador Bernstorff.

PUTS BLAME ON BRITAIN FOR EXISTING CONDITIONS

Says Orders to Captains of Merchantmen Are Responsible for Methods Now in Force.

Is Willing to Comply With Law Prevailing Before the War if England Consents to Do Likewise.

The German government, in a memorandum handed today by Count von Bernstorff to Secretary Lansing, outlines in detail tain the President's wishes.

#### Text of the Statement.

same laws.

The text of the memorandum follows The imperial German government, on ccount of the friendly relations which have always existed between the two great nations, and earnestly desiring to continue them, wishes to explain the U-boat question once more to the

'At the outbreak of the war the Ger man government, acting upon the suggestion of the United States, immediately expressed its readiness to ratify the declaration of London. At that German prize code had alread sued, which was entirely, all., modification, based upon the the declaration of London, Gerselves, but also with belligerent

#### countries. Action of Great Britain.

"Great Britain, on the other hand, de clined to ratify the declaration of London, and after the outbreak of the war began to restrict the legitimate trade of the neutrals in order to hit Germany. The contraband provisions were systematically: extended August 5, 20, September 21 and October 29, 1914. November 3, 1914, the order of the British admiralty followed, declaring the whole North sea a war zone in which commercial shipping would be exposed to the most serious danger from mines and men-of-war.

to the most serious danger from mines and men-of-war.

"Protests from neutrals were of no avail and from that time on the freedom of neutral commerce with Germany was practically destroyed. Under these circumstancea Germany was compelled to resort. In February, 1915, to reprisals in order to fight her opponents measures which were absolutely contrary to international law. She chose for this purpose a new weapon the use of which had not yet been regulated by international law and, in doing so, could and did not violate any existing rules, but only took into account the peculiarity of this new weapon, the submarine boat. "The use of the submarine naturally necessitated a restriction of the free movement of neutrals and constituted a danger for them which Germany intended to ward off by a special warning analogous to the warning England had given regarding the North sea.

### British Orders in Council.

As both belligerents-Germany in her note of February 17 and Great Britain in those of February 18 and 20, 1915—claimed that their proceeding was only enacted in retaliation for the violation of international law by their opponent, the American government approached both parties for the purpose of trying to re-establish international law as it had been in force before the war.

Germany was asked to adapt the use of her new weapon to the rules which had been existing for the former which had been existing for the former naval weapons, and England not to interfere with the food supplies intended for the non-combatant German population, and to admit their distribution under American supervision. Germany, March I, 1915, declared her willingness to comply with the proposal of the American government, while England, on the other hand, declined to do so.

"By the order in council March 11, 1915. Great Britain abolished even what had remained of the freedom of neutral trade with Germany and her neutral neighbors. England's object was to starve Germany into submission

ese illegal means.

ermany, after neutral citizens had lost their lives against the intention, nevertheless, in the further course of the war, complied with the wishes of the American government regarding the use of her submarines. The rights of neutrals regarding legal trading were in fact nowhere limited by Germany.

### Puts Blame on England.

"Then England made it impossible for submarines to conform with the old rules of international law by arming nearly all merchantmen and by order-

# **BAKER MAY TAKE** OFFICE TOMORROW

New Secretary of War Is Expected to Reach Here This Evening.

NOTHING NOW REMAINS BUT TO TAKE THE OATH

Former Secretary Garrison May Not Be Present, as the Time Is Somewhat Uncertain

Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, will become Secretary of War as soon as he MAKES CONDITIONAL PROMISE subscribes to the usual oath of MEETINGS FOR THREE DAYS office prescribed by the Constitution. Having been duly nomi- Should Differences Be Not Adjusted nated and confirmed by the Senate, he can qualify as the official head of the military establishment at his convenience. He is due to arrive here this evening. call at the White House to ascer-

tary Lansing, outlines in detail its position in regard to armed ships, reviews events leading up to its decision to torpedo without warning all armed merchantmen of its enemies, concedes that international law, as at present constituted, makes no provision for the use of submarines, and expresses a willingness to operate its submarines in accordance with international law prevailing prior to the war on the condition that to the war on the condition that the condit

impossible so far to inform Mr. Garrison on that point.

In case it is arranged that Mr. Baker shall be installed tomorrow morning Maj. Gen. Hugsh L. Scott, chief of staff, Secretary of War ad interim, probably will conduct the ceremonies at the War Department, as the representative of former Secretary Garrison, in case the latter is not able to be present. In accordance with custom, Gen. Scott has asked Judge Garrison to sit for his portraif, to be added to the collection of his predecessors in office. The selection of the artist is left to the discretion of Mr. Garrison. Great Britain does not violate the

### Nomination Confirmed.

nomination of Newton Diehl Baker to be Secretary of War was confirmed by the Senate late yesterday

he President. tempted yesterday to make trouble for Mr. Baker by quoting from a telegram which Senator Pomerene of Ohio re-ceived from him when there was loud talk of a rebellion in the House against talk of a rebellion in the House against employers and employes, I the President's policy regarding armed Mr. King and Mr. Hanna merchantmen

merchantmen. They quoted from the telegram as follows:

"Cannot something be done to save the party, which at present is a dismal failure."

The full text of the message, however, puts a very different light upon the matter. It reads:

"Onlinon here is wholly with the center of the subject of the conferences, and that their call was not related to the subject of the conferences." failure."

The full text of the message, however, puts a very different light upon
the matter. It reads:
"Opinion here is wholly with the
President. He will doubtless save the
honor of the country, but cannot something be done to save the party, which
seems to be a dismal failure."

### When Telegram Was Sent.

Mr. Baker's friends immediately called attention to the fact that the telegram was sent at a time when many of the democrats in the Senate and House were making "a dismal failure of the party" by opposing the President's submarine

The anti-preparedness committee ves terday issued a strong indorsement of the appointment of Secretary Baker. This committee, which includes in its membership Miss Jane Addams, Stephen S. Wise Lillian D. Wald and John Haynes Holmes proposed by the administration and con-gressional leaders for national prepared-ness.

#### Statement of Committee. The statement issued by the committee

as as follows "If the President had appointed an Ohio mocrat to be Secretary of War, instead of a New Jersey democrat, it is doubtfu whether the country and the administration would be in quite the situation it is

in at present.

"For no democrat close to the people of the middle west would have encouraged the President to reverse himself in his Manhattan Club address and no middle western democrat would have talked quite so cheerfully as dld Mr. Garrison about 'universal compulsory military service.' Mr. Wilson is to be congratulated on his selection. White it comes too late to help the administration preparedness program, it will tend to convince the country that the President is not entirely the jingo which some would make him out to be." "For no democrat close to the people

### BAKER LEAVES FOR CAPITAL.

"I Shall Have a Great Deal to Learn," Says New War Secretary. CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 8.-His

oath of office and enter upon his duties as Secretary of War. Mr. Baker has as Secretary of War. Mr. Baker has been occupied in the past two days with receiving the congratulations of his friends and shaping his private affairs with reference to his absence from Cleveland.

To some of his friends Mr. Baker said jokingly just before leaving: "I shall have a great deal to learn. Why as a boy I never even played with tin soldiers."

### 200 Tool Machinists Strike.

FRANKLIN, Pa., March 8 .- Machinists employed at the plants of the Chi ists employed at the plants of the Chi-cago Pneumatic Tool Company, the son, and the committee of Capital Trac-Colburn Machine Tool Company and the Producers' Supply Company here are H. Cookman, H. L. White and J. L. nearly all merchantmen and by ordering the use of guns on merchant vessels for attack. Photographic reproductions of those instructions have been transmitted to neutral governments with the memorandum of the (Cestiaued en Thirteenth Page.)

# CARMEN IN SESSION WITH OFFICIALS TO SETTLE GRIEVANCES

Spirit of Conciliation Marks Deliberations of Men and Their Employers.

SESSIONS BEING HELD AT COMPANY OFFICES

Minor Details of Deliberations Again Taken Up With Commissioner Newman.

in That Period, Special Arbitrators Will Be

Committees representing the and probably will make his first recently unionized street car motormen and conductors who went on strike Sunday morning and returned to work Monday night met officials of the local street railway companies this morning for a series of conferences which, it is believed, will adjust all grievances of the employes. The meetings were held at company offices. It was announceed that no details of the conferences will be made public until they have been concluded. It was said, however, that the conferences are being conducted in the best spirit of conciliation, which, it is believed, will make for eventual success.

#### Those in Conferences.

The committee of employes of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, comprising George A. Wilmet at the offices of that company on with Clarence P. King, president of the company; S. R. Bowen, secretary of the company; and other officials.

The committee of employee of the Capital Traction Company, comprising J. H. Cookman, H. L. White and J. L. Gaither, met at the office of that company on M street at 11 o'clock this morning, with George E. Hamilton, president of the company o

They quoted from the the District building and had a being

## To Continue Three Days.

The conferences adjourned for luncheon and were resumed at an early hour at the companies' offices this afternoon It is expected that they will continue for three days, concluding Friday, under three days, concluding Friday, under the agreement which brought them
about. Questions such as the reinstatement of the men who were discharged by the companies since February 13, because, the men charged,
they had joined the union, are being
thrashed out in the conferences, as well
as the possibility of a readjustment of
working hours and wage scales, the instruction of new motormen and conductors, the right of the men to truction of new motormen and c uctors, the right of the men hoose their "runs" according

choose their "runs" according to seniority in service, etc.

It was provided in the agreement which brought about the conferences that if they are not successful in clearing up the grievances of the men at the end of three days, which period will expire Friday, arbitrators are to be chosen to settle remaining disputed points, but the opinion prevailed today in all quarters that the company officials will be able to straighten out their differences with their employes without resort to arbitration. After an agreement is made between the conferees it will be subject to approval by the conductors and motormen as a body, and a contract for one year is to be made between the employes and the companies.

### Good Feeling Is Shown by Representatives of Carmen and Companies

The decision to start the street railway strike arbitration conferences this morning was reached at a meeting yesterday afternoon in the office of Commissioner Newman, at which were present the Commissioners, officials of the two companies and the committees representing the employes. Promptly at 2:39 o'clock the arbi-

trators arrived, remaining in session until 4 o'clock. There was evidence on all sides of the best of feeling. Cigars CLEVELAND. Ohio, March 8.—His nomination already confirmed by the Senate, Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, left today for Washington, where tomorrow he will take the

cable settlement of the matters in con-troversy.

President Clarence P. King. Vice President W. F. Ham and Secretary S. R. Bowen appeared for the Washing-ton Railway and Electric Company. The Capital Traction Company's rep-resentatives were President George E. Hamilton and J. H. Hanna, vice pres-ident and general manager.

### Employes' Delegation

Representatives of the recent strikers arrived in a body. The delegation was made up of the committee of Washington Railway and Electric Company employes, including George A. Wilburt, H. E. Jones and F. M. Thomp-



# "BOMBS" ARE BLAMED FOR BIG NIAGARA FIRE

Explosions and Flames Threaten Complete Destruction of Chemical Concern.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., March 8 .-Fire following an explosion in the chlorate department of the Niagara threatened to complete the destruc tion of the plant, begun last night sultant fires inflicted damage estimated

miles around, and across the Niagara cataract in Canada, where it caused : hasty mobilization of the militia guard ing the frontier. The police roped off the streets in the vicinity of the chemcal plant as the fire was driven toward chemicals of a high explosive nature. The firemen were helpless to cope with the spreading fire because water mix-ing with the chemicals only added fuel

### Says Plant Was Bombed.

day, saying the plant had been 'bombed."

"I am convinced," he said. "that the explosion is our plant was the result of outside agencies. Careful investigation has shown us the first explosion was not such as would have occurred had chemicals stored in our buildings let go. "I believe a bomb with only a small amount of explosive was set off just inside the peroxidal plant, the slight explosion that followed giving most of the employes a chance to escape. The second explosion was also caused by a bomb, but those that followed were those of the stores of chemicals in the plant."

Committee gave no indication as to which it would report to the fore the Senate. But some of my colleagues in whose judgment I have great confidence, a number of them being substantially in accord with my views, have expressed to me their belief that it would be wiser and better in every dictary committee. Austen G. Fox, attorney for the opposition to confirmation, obtained permission to file a second explosion was also caused by a bomb, but those that followed were those of the stores of chemicals in the light, with the seeping of the within the keeping of the light with the President—I say frank the investigation, stating that he did not consider it within the keeping of the light with the President—I say frank the investigation, stating that he did not consider it within the keeping of the light with the president—I say frank the investigation, stating that he did not consider it within the keeping of the stores of chemicals in the consideration of its report to the leagues in whose judgment I have great confidence. But some of the Senate. But some of the Senate. But some of the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But some of the senate views be-fore the Senate. But No one was injured by the explosion today, but one man was killed and an other badly injured by the explosion

GEORGIA WOMAN SHOOTS

advancing on her with a strap and said he intended to beat her, according to her statement in jail here, where she is held for murder. The police found a razor strop clutched in the lifeless hand

of Pannell.

Police Mayo stated today of Pannell.

Chief of Police Mayo stated today that Mrs. Pannell came to him several days ago and said that her husband had been abusing her and their three children, and requested that he take steps to see that he was returned to North Carolina, where there was a warrant for him on a charge the chief does not recall. He told her to go back home and await developments, Police records do not show that any action was taken against Pannell. He was thirty-three years old.

#### "SLIVERS," THE CLOWN, DEAD. Had Made Millions of American Circus Goers Laugh.

NEW YORK, March 8.-Frank Oak ley, who as "Slivers," a circus clown, made millions of people laugh through pany employes, including George A. Wilburt, H. E. Jones and F. M. Thompson, and the committee of Capital Traction Company employes, including J. L. Gaither.

After an informal session of "getting acquainted," the committeemen spent some time discussing the agreement under which the striking carmen returned (Continued on Second Page.)

# **BRANDEIS HEARING** COMES TO AN END

No Indications When Report Will Be Made to Judiciary Committee.

### Chemical Company today SENATOR CHILTON STATES NO TIME WILL BE LOST

Austen G. Fox, Attorney for Opposition to Confirmation, to Submit Index of Testimony.

Public hearings on the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis of Boston to be associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United ject of armed merchant ships and on States were terminated today by other related subjects. Dr. Hector B. Carrath, manager of the the judiciary subcommittee of the Defers to Colleagues' Judgment. company, issued a formal statement to- Senate. The inquiry has been in "I am convinced," he said, "that the committee gave no indication as be glad to lay these matured views be

diciary committee. Austen G. Fox, attorney for the opposition to confirmation, obtained permission to file a "sort of index" to the testimony of the thirty-nine witnesses who appeared at the investigation, stating that he did not consider it within the keeping of the digrity of the occasion to present an argument on the testimony.

### Only One Committeeman Absent.

All the senators in the subcommittee participated in the executive session at the close of the taking of testimony AND KILLS HUSBAND except Senator Fletcher, who is leaving for a two-month absence in South Mrs. L. E. Pannell, Held for Murder, Says Spouse Intended to Beat Her.

ATLANTA. Ga., March 8.—Mrs. L. E. Pannell shot and killed her husband at their home here today as he was

### To Make All Possible Speed. After the meeting Senator Chilton

stated he had no idea when his subcommittee would be ready to report, but that all possible speed would be made in view of the mass of testimony

taken.

The last evidence laid before the committee was a quotation from Mr. Brandeis' book on "Business as a Profession," in which he referred to the value of the New England railroad to the public and the efforts of the New Haven to put it into receiver's hands.

George R. Nutter, a member of the Brandeis law firm, was present to suspense any questions as to his connection with the Lennox case, but nothing was desired from him.

## DAY IN CONGRESS.

Brandels inquiry ended. Shields waterpower bill up for final debate on amendments and

Met at noon. Calendar bills considered.

# SAYS PRESIDENT WANTS TO KEEP OUT OF WAR

Senator Stone Sets at Rest Reports
to Contrary, and Explains Postponement of Speech.

The jury report sets forth that the grand jury was unable to fix any particular cause for the recent East Youngstown reign of anarchy. The report flays Mayor W. H. Cunningham and members of the East Youngstown police force. saying that neither the mayor nor any member of the police force made an effort whatever to disperse the mob.

Mayor Cunningham is criticised for not closing the saloons of East Youngstown relations committee, addressing the Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, addressing the Senate this afternoon. Senator Stone said that he had had a very frank talk with the President last night. His statement today was made in explanation of his determination not to address the Senate upon the subject of

"I have a notice standing on the calendar to the effect that I would on to-

"With much care I have prepared a speech which I purposed progress for a month. The sub-

talk, for that is the way we talk with each other, as we should. I am sure that I will not offend if I say that so far from the President desiring to in-volve this country in this disastrous

volve this country in this disastrous European war his supreme wish is to avoid that calamity.

"I may not be in accord with some of his views. I have already stated that on the Senate floor. But it should be impossible for any senator to believe that the President has so changed the at itude he has so long maintained as an advocate of peace as to wish now to make this country a party to this conflict.

Thinks It Against Public Policy. "As senators well know, I have from the first been earnestly opposed to having any of these questions presented in any formal way to the Senate and that I have been equally opposed to any public discus ion of these questions while they were the subject of diplomatic negotiation. In this view I ahve determined that I could

this view I ahve determined that I could better serve the cause that I have at heart—that is the maintenance of peace in this country—by withholding any expression of my opinions so long as the questions at issue are the leritimate subject of diplomatic negotiations.

"I profoundly hope that no occasion will arise when I shall feel obliged to take these subjects up in a public way, but If, perchance, such an occasion should arise I will speak and act as I think. In the meantime I shall give the President whatever support I can in the discharge of those duties devolved upon him by the Constitution.

"All through his service as President I nave co-operated with him and with all my heart I wish to continue that co-operation, and so I have concluded not to say anything at this juncture not to say anything at this juncture that might be misunderstood, esne-cially in foreign that might be misunderstood, especially in foreign capitals and which might by any chance contribute to the difficulties with which the President is beset. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." evil thereof."

German-Born Electors Denied Vote. SYDNEY, N. S. W., via London, March s 6:59 a.m.-The cabinet has decided to disfranchise all German-born electors for the duration of the war, following the arrest and internment of several hundred aliens who are con-sidered of hostile disposition.

# SIX LARGE STEEL **CONCERNS INDICTED**

Youngstown Companies Are **Charged With Conspiring to** Fix Laborers' Pay.

JUDGE E. H. GARY AMONG THE BIG MEN MENTIONED

Mayor and Six Councilmen Also Ac cused by Grand Jury of Being Implicated.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, March 8-Indictments were returned today by the Mahoning county grand jury against the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, the Republic Iron and Steel Company, the Brier Hill Steel Company, the Youngstown Iron and Steel Company, the Carnegie Steel Company, the United States Steel Company and Judge E. H. United States Steel Company.

sweeping investigation of the ters. East Youngstown riots and labor

troubles of January. The specific offense charged against the six steel concerns is that they conspired to keep the wages of common labor at the same figure, at the time of the strike at the Republic Iron and Steel Company and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company in January. Announcement was made by all these companies within two days' time of a 10 per cent increase in wages. This action is held to be due to an agreement.

### Mayor and Councilmen Indicted.

Indictments were also returned gainst Mayor W. H. Cunningham and ix councilmen of East Youngstown, charging them with being financially interested in property purchased for illage purposes.

### Charge Illegal Use of Militia.

The report recites the fact that guard at the Youngstown Sheet and armed merchant ships tomorrow as he Tube Company who is a member of had given notice he would do. Senator the state militia, without legal author-Stone's statement was, in part, as fol- ity took ten members of the National Guard to the Sheet and Tube Company's property to guard the same,

It is also stated that the guard apmorrow address the Senate on the sub- propriated state ammunition, although the grand jurors say that they do not feel that he intended to steal the am

feel that he intended to steal the ammunition. It is set forth that the action of the guard made it impossible for the sheriff or the captain of the militia to mobilize militiamen in time of grave public danger.

Guards on the Sheet and Tube Company bridge, who fired into the crowd assembled about the time office before the rioting began, are censured. The report says that the guards were not of the standard to be trusted with such a report says that the guards were not of the standard to be trusted with such a responsible duty. The report goes on to say that the grand jury was unable to find that the influence of any foreign government was responsible for the riot. The alleged combination of manu-facturers with the intent to keep down the wages of common labor is criticised.

#### Calls Indictment an Outrage. NEW YORK, March 8 .- When informed of the indictment returned at Youngstown against the United States Steel Corporation, other steel companies and himself, Judge Elbert H. Gary to-

day issued the following statement: "There are no facts to justify the in dictments returned by the Mahoning county grand jury against the United States Steel Corporation or the Carnegie Steel Company or any of the officers, or so far as I know against any of the other companies. The indictment is an outrage-a travesty."

### BELGIANS SENT TO PRISON.

Life Sentences Imposed Upon Many

by German Courts-Martial. AMSTERDAM, via London, March 8 .-The Echo Belge says that so many gion to the east-of Maisons de Cham-Belgians have recently been sentenced pagne, we launched an attack which Belgians have recently been sentenced to therms of imprisonment with hard labor, many for life, by German courts-martial at Antwerp, Ghent, Liege and Namur that, while it declares the list too long for publication, even a partial list of fifty names must make a serious impression on all persons interested in the fate of Belgium, as it includes many women and prominent persons. persons.
In the list is the name of Count

Pierre de Liederkerke, member of one of the leading families of Belgium closely associated with the royal house.

### Swedish Protest to Germany.

STOCKHOLM, via London, March 8 .-The Swedish minister at Berlin has been instructed to protest to the German government against the laying of the course of the night the Germans mines within four miles of the Swedish continued their bombardment of our

The four German steamers which have The four German steamers which have been seized in this port by the Portuguese government are the Admiral, the Essen, the Kronprinz and the Hoff. Four hundred officers and men of the crews of the four vessels are interned. It is announced that the Essen has aboard a cargo of tin concentrates of the value of \$1,250,000.

# **GERMANS CAPTURE** FRENCH POSITIONS **ALONG THE MEUSE**

ONE CENT.

**Berlin Reports New Successes** on West Bank of River Near Verdun.

BATTLE CLIMAX EXPECTED BY TOMORROW OR FRIDAY

Paris, Though Anxious, Proclaims Confidence in Outcome of Titanic Struggle.

FRENCH WIN IN CHAMPAGNE

War Office Announces That Trenches Recently Taken by the Germans Heve Been Recaptured.

BERLIN, March 8, via Lon-Gary, executive chairman of the don, 3:15 p.m.—The capture of a French position west of the The defendants are charged Meuse on both sides of the Forges with having formed a trust to fix brook below Bethincourt, six the wages of common labor in kilometers wide and three kiloviolation of the laws of Ohio. meters deep, was announced to-These indictments followed a day by German army headquar-

> It was announced also that the villages of Forges and Regneville, the heights of Rabene and the Cumieres woods were in German possession.

Many Prisoners Taken. The capture of fifty-eight offiers, 3.277 men and ten cannon is officially reported In the Woevre district the

French were driven out of the last houses they held in the village of Fresnes. More than 700

the Meuse on the southern slopes of the Cote de Talou and of the Cote du

Poivre and on the Douaumont posi-"The enemy positions on the left bank of the Meuse, on both sides of Forges brook, below Bethincourt, were stormed over a width of six kilometeres (3.7 miles) and a depth of more than

### three kilometers (1.8 miles).

New Positions Occupied. "The villages of Forges and Regneville, as well as the heights of Raben and the Cumieres woods, are in our possession Counter attacks by the French against the southern boundaries of these woods were repulsed with sanguinary losses. A great num ber of the occupants in the captured positions perished. Fifty-eight officers and 3,277 men were taken prisoner. Furthermore, ten cannon and much other war material were captured. "in the Woevre district the enemy was driven out of the last houses in

# guns were captured. "Our aeropiane squadrons dropped bombs on the villages west of Verdun which are occupied by the enemy."

there was increased to eleven officers

and more than 700 men. A few machine

Freanes. The number

Retake Champagne Trenches PARIS, March 8, via London, 1:26 p.m. -In the Champagne the French have receptured portions of the trenches lost March 6, according to announce-

ment made here today. The situation north of Verdun is un-changed. No infantry attacks were made last night, the announcement says. Artillery fighting continues. The text of the communication issued by the French war office this afternoon is as follows:

### Official French Statement.

"In the Champagne district, in the replaced us again in possession of the section of trenches occupied by the enemy on the 6th of March. In the course of this fighting we took eightyfive prisoners, including three officers, and captured a machine gun. A counter attack on the part of the enemy delivered a little later against the positions we held was successfully re-"In the Argonne our artillery has shelled the highways in the vicinity of Mount Faucon, over which it was re-ported that automobile transports were making their way.

#### Fighting Around Verdun. "In the region to the north of Verdun

no change has been reported. During the course of the night the Germans front to the west of the River Meuse, but without putting forward their in-Four German Steamers Seized.

LOURENCO Marquez, Portuguese East

Africa, March 7, via London, March 8,—
The four German steamers which have

Meuse, where the artillery bombard